fair price shops. Several States have included additional items such as pulses, tea, salt, soap, matches, coarse grains, etc., for distribution through fair price shops.

New Deal to Farmers

*77. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to give a new deal to the farmers by way of (i) a new formula to fix remunerative prices for their produce, (ii) provision of cheap and timely credit to them; (iii) making the Crop Loan Insurance Scheme more effective and beneficial in time, (iv) purposeful implementation of land reforms, (v) construction of a network of godowns in the rural areas to prevent distress sales and (vi) investing about 50 per cent of the 8th Plan outlays in agriculture and the rural areas as stated by the Prime Minister as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 31st January, 1990; and

(b) if so, the outline and time schedule of each scheme?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are as under:—

(i) The Government has appointed an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. C. H. Hanumantha Rao to comprehensively review the methodology for determining the cost of production to make these realistic. The Committee will submit its interim report by 15th March, 1990, and its full report within a period of four months.

(ii) A multi-agency approach has been adopted as a National policy for providing timely and adequate credit to the farmers, particularly in the small and marginal categories, and other weaker section through cooperative credit institutions, Regional Rural Banks and Commercial Banks. Agriculture credit is provided at concesnsional rates of interest.

(iii) A Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme is under implementation wherever the State Governments have come forward to praticipate, covering wheat, paddy, millets, oilseeds and pulses. All farmers aviling of crop loans for growing these crops are eligible for insurance coverage under the scheme Further, continuance of the Scheme beyond Rabi 1989-90 is under consideration.

(iv) The Government is considering a proposal to include land reform laws in the Ninth schedule of the constitution of India and a Constitutional Amendment Bill is likely to be introduced in the current Session of the Parliament.

(v) The Government is implementing a scheme for setting up of rural godowns to prevent distress sales of agricultural produce. A Master Plan for construction of warehouses and godowns is under preparation and is to be finalised by the end of March, 1990.

(vi) Investing about 50% of the plan outlays in agriculture and rural areas will be kept in view at the time of formulation and finalisation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Reconstitution of DRUCC & ZRUCCS

*78. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to reconstitute Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committees and Zonal Railway Users